



Volume 51 #4 December 2017

## Christmas Bird Count Season in NCW

From Nation Audubon Society and  
Local Count Compilers

Audubon's 118th Christmas Bird Count will be conducted this coming season, with all counts held between the (inclusive) dates of Thursday, December 14, 2017 through Friday, January 5, 2018. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with over 100 years of citizen science involvement. It is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across the U.S., Canada, and many countries in the Western Hemisphere go out over a 24-hour period on one calendar day to count birds.

A map view of the circles expected to be included in the completed 118th CBC can be found <http://www.audubon.org/join-christmas-bird-count>. If you're interested in participating this season, check out the map to find a count near you; more circles will be added as they are approved for the 118th CBC and beyond. Green and yellow circles are open for new participants, and red circles are full. Please note online registration will not be available for the 118th Count - please contact compilers by email using the information from the pop-ups on the map. Or see the inset for NCW Count contact information.

### Christmas Bird Counts in NCW

December 15, Bridgeport. Contact Meredith Spencer at 686-7551 or [merdave@homenetnw.net](mailto:merdave@homenetnw.net). Count begins at 7:30 am in Brewster with dinner and compilation after the count.

December 16, Leavenworth. Contact Gretchen Rohde at 393-0088 or [design@thedesigntax.com](mailto:design@thedesigntax.com). Birders will meet independently and survey routes during the daylight hours. A meeting place to compile lists will be announced.

December 29, Chelan. Contact Steve Easley at 682-2318 or [seasley@nwi.net](mailto:seasley@nwi.net) or Dan Smith at 682-9653. Birders will meet at the Apple Cup Café at 7:00 am for breakfast and then at 4:15 pm at the Lake Chelan Methodist Church for a warming chili supper and to share count reports.

December 30, Okanogan/Omak. Contact Heather at 429-8167 or [heather@eaglesun.net](mailto:heather@eaglesun.net). Birders will meet at Heather's house at 7:00 am.

December 31, Wenatchee. Contact Dan Stephens at 679-4706 or [dstephens@wvc.edu](mailto:dstephens@wvc.edu) to participate.

December 31, Twisp. Contact Dave Rudholm at 429-1105 or [davidrudholm1@centurytel.net](mailto:davidrudholm1@centurytel.net). Birders will meet at Cinnamon Twisp at 6:30 am and will reconvene at the Rudholms' house after the count.

For a list of the other CBC's around Washington, see <http://wos.org/cbc/>

Since the Christmas Bird Count began over a century ago, it has relied on the dedication and commitment of volunteers like you.

How does participation work? There is a specific methodology to the CBC, and all participants must plan to participate in advance with the circle compiler within an established circle, but anyone can participate. Each count takes place in an established 15-mile wide diameter circle, and is organized by a count compiler. Count volunteers follow specified routes through the designated circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day. It's not just a species tally—all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the circle that day. If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher.

If your home is within the boundaries of a CBC circle, then you can stay at home and report the birds that visit your feeder on count day as long as you have made prior arrangement with the count compiler.

The mission of the  
**North Central Washington Audubon Society**  
 is "to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing  
 on birds and their habitats, for the benefit of people and  
 the biological diversity of North Central Washington."

**North Central Washington Audubon Society**

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North Central Washington Audubon Society is on Facebook too

*All phone numbers in the Wild Phlox are area code 509 unless otherwise indicated.*

## January Field Trip

Mark Johnston will lead a winter field trip to the Waterville Plateau, Bridgeport Bar and the Columbia River on January 6. Participants will spend the day birding a variety of habitats and could see a nice mix of resident and migrant species that winter in NCW. Bring a lunch, snack, drinks and dress for the weather. Carpool cost is \$30 per vehicle to be shared equally by riders. This trip will begin in Chelan at 8:00 am and return there by 5:00 pm. To sign up, contact Mark at s697striata@frontier.com or 548-5766. Limited to eleven birders.

## Conifer ID Workshop

Winter is a great season to learn to identify native conifer trees that grow in Washington's east-side Cascade mountains. Wenatchee Valley College Continuing Education Department is offering an evening course on January 22 and 24 from 6-8 in Wenatchee. Register at: <https://www.wvc.edu/academics/continuing-education/>. Susan Ballinger has designed this hands-on workshop to introduce form, seeds, cones, needle and bark patterns, and natural history for each tree. We will use microscopes to examine live samples of needles. You will create your own learning aids and take samples home. Lectures will focus on how each species is adapted to thrive in the unique climate of our region that includes summer drought and wildfire. Contact Susan for more info at skylinebal@gmail.com.

## North Central Washington Audubon Society Wild Phlox Subscription Form

- Subscribe to NCW Audubon Wild Phlox One Year, Nine Issues \$15
- I prefer to get the Wild Phlox electronically (email address required below)
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To join the National Audubon Society which also includes a subscription to the Wild Phlox, please see their website at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

Already it looks like this might be a good winter for interesting birding. Finches have arrived in good numbers with reports of redpolls all over eastern (and western Washington too). Snowy Owls have been reported in at least three locations around Puget Sound and while I was searching Tweepsters (a listserv that mostly features sightings in western Washington) I found that one had been reported in Douglas County as well! Hopefully everyone who wants to see this charismatic owl will get a chance in the coming months.

According to Project Snow Storm (<http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/posts/new-season-report-arctic/>) this is already shaping up to be a good year for a Snowy Owl irruption around the US. The owls have already been reported in the Great Plains, Midwest, NE and as far south as Oklahoma and Virginia! Two factors that lead to big irruption years are a successful owl breeding season and a lack of lemmings in Canada. Lemmings are a favorite food for Snowy Owls.

At our house, Pine Siskins and Red-tailed Hawks seem to be the dominant species. On a recent walk, I saw at least three different Red-tailed Hawks on our hill. Everyday I see them nearby. This might explain why we are catching fewer mice than usual. If that is the case, I am very grateful. Hopefully they will put a dent in the vole population as well. Voles decimated my garden this year. And the Pine Siskins, along with a few American Goldfinches, are really going through seed at my feeders. Last year, there were few finches and I seldom had to refill the feeders but now it's an almost daily task. Hopefully they will soon be joined by Common Redpolls.

On Facebook I see that some of our members have had some fabulous trips to interesting locations around the world. Many of these trips seem to feature terrific birding opportunities. I wonder if any of you would consider writing an article for a future Phlox that might inspire other members when they are planning future trips. This might be a good thing for the dark gray days of winter.

And speaking of future Phloxes, there isn't be a January issue so keep up to date with NCW Audubon by following our website.



Female Northern Harrier  
photo by Peter Bauer, Winthrop



Sandhill Cranes  
photo by Janet Bauer, Winthrop

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## NCW Recent Bird Sightings

Okanogan County: A late Black-headed Grosbeak and an American Three-toed Woodpecker were seen at the trail to the Washington Pass overlook. A Sora was heard at Pearrygin Lake. Trumpeter Swans have been seen in the Methow Valley in various places this month. A White-winged Crossbill was observed in Winthrop. I saw a large flock of Gray-crowned Rosy-finches above Aspen Lake near Winthrop. Rough-legged Hawks have been seen in the Okanogan and Methow Valleys. A small flock of the rosy finches was seen near Twisp. 100+ Common Redpolls were seen at the Big Buck unit of the Methow Wildlife. Other birds seen there included Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrike, Bewick's Wren, Golden-crowned Sparrow and a Virginia Rail. Someone else saw a Snow Goose in this same area.

Chelan County: A scoter, probably a White-winged Scoter

compiled from the ncwabird email list and eBird and Tweepsters by Teri J Pieper

was seen on Lake Chelan. A Black Phoebe was reported near Wenatchee. Another was seen on Fish Lake. Lesser Goldfinches are coming to a feeder. A White-winged Crossbill was seen and photographed at a feeder.

Douglas County: Rough-legged Hawks are numerous on the Waterville Plateau. A Snowy Owl was seen on Dyer Hill Road above Bridgeport. A Harris' Sparrows was seen at a feeder.

Ferry County: Someone saw a dozen Red-tails, a Bald Eagle, 2 Northern Harriers, 2 Rough-legged Hawks, a Northern Shrike, a flock of Clark's Nutcrackers in addition to Mallards and a Golden-crowned Kinglet. A Pacific Loon was seen on Curlew Lake. A Long-tailed Duck was seen near the west bank of the Kettle River. Common Redpolls were seen at a feeder with Pine Siskins and 2 Bohemian Waxwings were seen eating mountain ash berries in the same yard.

# Fodder from the Feeder

## So Many Questions - Citizen Science Might Provide an Answer By Karen Mulcahy, Winthrop

Winter is trying to descend upon us, but it stays warm in the valley. It is snowing tonight but I am betting it won't stay, as the forecast is rain for the next week, all through Thanksgiving.

This makes for good birding during early morning walks, or morning feeder checks, or late-night deck auditory splendor. We have been enjoying the Great Horned Owls for a couple of weeks now, hooting in the dusk or the early morning. The other night, as we were listening to two of them quite close, and a couple far away responding, my husband walked down the driveway and flushed one. It was wonderful to watch it fly so silently away with no whoosh of wing flaps like we hear with the ravens (which, interestingly was the tree it flew from - our Common Raven nest tree).

Birds are still quite plentiful- this morning we watched two swans (Trumpeter we think) fly overhead, go west for a while, and as we rounded over to Big Twin Lake, they flew back and landed. A grand sight, at any time. But the loveliest sighting this week was the return of a male White-headed Woodpecker to our backyard suet feeder! We have not seen one for two years, and I must admit to feeling quite envious when my friend in neighboring Pine Forest would tell me about her sightings of these guys. We were thrilled to glimpse one again and hope he will stay. I will keep you posted.

We have had male and female Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, Northern Flickers, and many, many Mountain Chickadees with some Black-capped Chickadees.

But by far the biggest flocks have been the Pine Siskins - some 20-50 at a time. What is the story with these guys? They are so plentiful they drain my feeders in a day! The scoop is this: they are nomadic finches, responding to seed crops, and you often hear their twittering before they appear. Cornell Lab says they like to cling to branch tips but my siskins hang out on the feeders and underneath, retrieving

the seeds they and other birds have knocked down. They are smallish songbirds with very small pointed bills (most other finches have bulkier bills) and notched tails. They also have yellow wing marking, distinct from House and Cassin's Finches.

Pine Siskins move about in irruptions every couple of years (like Snowy Owls). Interestingly, following this irruptive winter flight, some may stay in the food source area and breed - south of their normal breeding territory. They are opportunists for sure.

These little guys get through really cold winter nights by ramping up their metabolic rate (the opposite of slowing it down like chickadees and hummingbirds, when they go into torpor states) and can accelerate their rates up to five times normal for several hours. They also put on a lot of weight for winter (hence the feeder pigouts), way more than their Common Redpoll and American Goldfinch relatives - half again as much winter fat! They also store seed in their crops - as much as 10 percent of their body mass.

A lot has been learned about Pine Siskins through "Project FeederWatch", particularly during the 2008-2009 irruption when they made a dramatic showing at feeders across North America.

A little plug here for FeederWatch- I have finally joined and should be receiving my research kit next week. If you are interested, visit the Cornell Lab website or FeederWatch.org. The \$18 annual participation fee for U.S. residents (\$15 for Cornell Lab members) covers materials, support, the data analysis, and year-end report you receive. The data that you collect will ultimately show trends and long term surges and declines. FeederWatch is important because it supplies weekly data showing changes in bird distribution and abundance across North America. It is a great Citizen Science endeavor.

I will keep you posted about my FeederWatch experiences. Happy holiday birding!

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## A New Store in NCW for Bird Lovers

By Jaana Hatton, Wenatchee

There is something new in Wenatchee, just for birds and those who love birds. It's called Wild Birds Unlimited and located at 212 Fifth Street, right behind Jimmy John's and Tastebuds. The shop is open 10-6 Monday through Saturday and 11-4 on Sundays.

Owner Patrick Bodell has been preparing for a year to open the store, taking seriously the franchise mission statement: "We bring people and nature together...and we do it with excellence." He has taken classes with Wild Birds Unlimited, visited and worked at their stores as far away as California and also locally participated in Susan Ballinger's bird walks.

Patrick has been busy making connections with bird specialists and hobbyists. He wants to make his enterprise more than just a place to shop - it will be the hub where birders can find out about events and catch up on the latest.

"My wife Mabel and I wish to create a unique, personally satisfying and profitable retail store that complements and leverages the outdoor-oriented lifestyle in Wenatchee while making a positive impact on the community," Patrick said about his new undertaking. This is his third business.

For more information about our hometown Wild Birds Unlimited go to [www.wbu.com/wenatchee](http://www.wbu.com/wenatchee) or call 888-0513.

# Thanks to Donors Article Migrates to the February Issue

By Mark Oswood, Wenatchee

We send out our once-a-year donation appeal in late summer. We've traditionally had two appreciations of donors, the first in the December issue and the second in the June (summer) issue of the Phlox. We've moved the June listing each year to the September issue and now we're moving the December listing to the February issue. Our appreciation to donors has changed months but grows by the year.

We get mail

Dear NCWAS:

*I'm a physicist at the NCW Linear Accelerator. Recently, we did an experiment, accelerating a positron beam to near-light speeds; we used my NCWAS donation slip as a target. We discovered a new elementary kindness particle! It turns out that this newly-found particle provides the strong force that keeps nonprofits together. My donation slip is, sadly, toast. What can I do?*

*Slipless in Waterville*

Dear Slipless:

*We always provide a duplicate donation slip in this December issue, because you never know what Nobel uses people might find for our donation slip.*

Here is my/our donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make checks payable to NCW Audubon.  
Thank You!

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Donors will be acknowledged (name but not address) in a future issue of the Phlox.

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## Getting to Know Your Board Members Virginia Palumbo - Field Trip Chair

by Penny Tobiska, Wenatchee

**Tell us a little about your background and how you came to be interested in the natural world.**

I grew up with a copy of Rachel Carson's "A Sense of Wonder" on my headboard. Both my parents and grandparents loved the natural world, and knew the local flora and fauna well. Our backyard was a rich riparian woodland in North Carolina, and we 6 kids spent our childhood in these woods and waters. We always had field guides around the house, and we identified birds, plants, rocks and seashells, at home and when we travelled. At Guilford College, I took many biology, ornithology and geology courses, which deepened my love and understanding of the natural world.

**You are one of our esteemed field trip leaders. Tell us about some of your memorable experiences in the field.**

I love going out with beginners, and seeing their excitement at finding field marks and identifying a bird. The "aha!" moment of putting two and two together and coming up with a name and identity is always thrilling for them and for me. At the Wells Wildlife field trip during Hawkfest this year, several Turkey Vultures gave us a good up-close showing. The new birders were so excited by seeing the naked red head, the clear dihedral in flight, the long "fingers" and learning who this bird was. With a little information about their natural history added in, these new birders now have a "new friend" in this species!

**When you are not enjoying birds, what are some of your other interests?** I am a retired Maternal/Child Nurse, lactation consultant and doula. Being retired gives me new time for the other things I love – being with my family (husband Paul, our 4

grown kids and 9 month old grandson), exploring natural areas on foot, and working in The Chelan Community Garden. I try to stay abreast of current and historical issues of human rights and social and environmental justice, and to make frequent phone calls, letters, and e-mails in support of these issues.

Last year I was fortunate to be able to spend some time with my brother at Standing Rock, and to support the vital work being done by the Water Protectors.

**Where are your favorite birding spots both in North Central Washington and beyond?** My favorite spots are those in which I feel a personal connection from doing citizen science. I do a bi-monthly survey at Beebe Springs Natural Area, with the data used by WDFW for site assessment and grant applications. It is fun to watch this restoration site as it matures, and is home to an increasing number of diverse species (over 100 now!) I also love the CDLT Stormy Preserve on the Entiat River, which I survey with Phil Archibald monthly, and the Upper Basin of the Wenatchee Valley, in which I also participate in a monthly survey. I love the familiarity of learning local places well, and enjoying the surprises which frequently pop up.

*Photo provided - Virginia and her daughter at Washington Pass.*



# 2017 Conservation Update

Much has changed since we reported last January on the issues we're working on in support of birds in our region. All we were involved with then have moved forward, and we've taken on more for a current total of ten. Here is an overview of four issues, and developments or actions we've taken on each since our last report. The February Phlox will cover the remaining issues.

**Upper Wenatchee Community Lands Plan (UWCLP)** – A few years ago, it became known that Weyerhaeuser was potentially open to selling some of approximately 30,000 acres of forest lands it owns in the upper Wenatchee Valley. A coalition of interest groups, including Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT), Nature Conservancy, Chelan County, and The Trust for Public Lands, subsequently established a process to assess these lands for possible purchase for a variety of activities including recreation, fish and wildlife, birding, etc.

In November 2015, North Central Washington Audubon Society (NCWAS) established a task force to prioritize these lands from the perspective of landscape connectivity and native biodiversity, with a focus on birds. We subsequently identified several high priority parcels and in June 2016 submitted our recommendations to Chelan Douglas Land Trust for inclusion in the overall process.

Last July, we attended a Kahler Glen Community (near Lake Wenatchee) meeting regarding Weyerhaeuser plans for logging a parcel immediately adjacent to the community. We subsequently submitted a letter to the Department of Natural Resources in support of the community's concerns. These concerns led to negotiations regarding several UWCLP parcels in the Nason Creek area, a few of which we recommended for acquisition. We are unaware of similar discussions regarding parcels in the Chumstick and Blewett areas, but remain hopeful for progress there too going forward.

**Icicle Creek Water Management Strategy** – Icicle Creek, a tributary to the Wenatchee River near Leavenworth, faces the consequences of past over-allocation of water rights to a variety of users. This, and the threats posed by global warming mean the creek is simply unable to maintain adequate summer instream flows while supplying current and future demands on its water. To address this, the Icicle Creek Water Management Strategy (IWMS) was devised over the last several years by Chelan County Department of Natural Resources in coordination with the various water rights holders and other stakeholders, including several environmental and recreational interests. The goal is to better manage use of the creek's waters to provide for current and future demand, while assuring adequate instream flows.

In May 2016, NCWAS cosigned, along with 39 other environmental and recreational organizations, an Icicle SEPA Scoping Comments letter detailing several environmental concerns. They include protection of lakes in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, pursuit of relinquishment of expired water rights, and stronger water conservation measures. The letter was submitted to the Chelan Department of Natural Resources during the official comment period. We've since co-signed two more letters addressing additional aspects of the plan.

NCWAS supports many of the Strategy's suggested actions

by Mark Johnston, Leavenworth

including improving domestic conservation and irrigation efficiencies, creation of a voluntary Icicle water market to increase agricultural reliability, enhancing water quality and conservation at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, and habitat protection and improvement. We're concerned, however, about a major component of the IWMS that relies too heavily on water drawn from seven lakes in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. In our opinion, the conservation measures currently called for by the IWMS are inadequate. Rather than seeking to further harness these lakes, and thereby the Icicle drainage's waters, we suggest recognizing its natural limits and adjusting our activities to them. This would be better for the natural landscapes and habitats that support our area's wildlife and associated recreational opportunities. We also believe this approach will better sustain our region's livability and economy over the long-term.

We've become increasingly active on this issue lately. In mid-September, we met with Chelan County, then followed up with an editorial in the Wenatchee World, published on October 3rd. It presented our concerns with the process, and provided suggestions for how it might be improved. We've had further discussions with the county since then. As this report goes to press, Chelan County seems interested in finding a way to address the environmental community's objections to the current plan. NCWAS supports this, and awaits further developments.

**Chelan County Shoreline Management Plan:** Chelan County is in the final stages of updating its Shoreline Management Plan. Overall, they are proposing substantial roll-backs to protections the current plan offers. They're doing so in a variety of ways - by changing the criteria applying to specific designations, changing the designations applying to specific areas, and reducing across the board the width of buffers along lakes and streams. We've submitted a letter to the county opposing these proposed changes, and arguing for stronger protections in all cases. Once the county has signed off on their final plan, it will still need to be approved at the state level. We'll be involved there too.

**Horan Natural Area (HNA) Rewatering Status:** NCWAS has been involved with this effort for several years, and is happy to report that the plan for bringing substantial water back into the area's wetlands is moving forward. Obtaining the water needed is not as easy as one might think, as obtaining it from the Columbia River is not an option. The Chelan PUD manages the project, and is currently working on several complex designs and right-of-way issues. These may take another three years to work through. The upside is that the various issues are being addressed and the project will likely get done. When complete, the area's value to birds and other wildlife should be significantly enhanced.

In addition to the re-watering issue, we recently learned the City of Wenatchee is in the process of planning a major redevelopment of the city's waterfront. This will include reworking of the roads and the walking path adjacent to HNA. We recently met with them to learn more about these plans and how they might impact the natural area and re-watering project. Based on what we learned, we've established a NCWAS working group to manage our involvement in the process as it proceeds.

# Protecting Sharp-tailed Grouse

Allisa Carlson, Okanogan

The Okanogan Conservation District (Okanogan CD) and volunteers have been busy this fall, completing conservation projects for the Working for Wildlife program. Working for Wildlife is an initiative of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, uniting several partners to sustain working lands and wildlife habitat. Okanogan CD's role is to work with private landowners within the project area to develop conservation plans that benefit habitat for three primary species: Sharp-tailed Grouse, mule deer, and lynx. The project area spans from Republic to Conconully; including Tunk Valley, Pine Creek, and the Limebelt. One of the state's only populations of Sharp-tailed Grouse reside within the grass and shrub lands of Tunk Valley and Scotch Creek, which are the heart of the project area.

Okanogan CD is focusing on marking fence lines near Sharp-tailed Grouse lekking areas. The Bird Conservancy of the Rockies has determined that the fence markers can reduce collisions by up to 58%. Fence markers are small tabs (typically

white) made from vinyl house siding, that hang on barbed wire fences so the grouse can see them more easily at dawn, when they are flying to their breeding grounds. With the assistance of two volunteer groups, the conservation district worked with five private landowners to mark 8.5 miles of fence line in Tunk Valley!

On September 24, Eagle Scout Max Cheeseman coordinated a group of volunteers to mark nearly three miles of fence line. Omak High School Future Farmers of America club installed nearly five miles of fence markers on November 8. Both groups cut the vinyl siding into markers at their respective high school shops. We greatly appreciate their efforts in the conservation of Sharp-tailed Grouse in Okanogan County!

If you have any questions about the Working for Wildlife program, please contact Wildlife Conservation Planner Allisa Carlson at 422-0855 ext. 111.

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## Of Birds, Binoculars and Vacuum Cleaners

by Susan Sampson, Wenatchee

My husband Jerry loves technology and always wants the latest in media systems, computers, telephones and appliances, his "appropriate technology." Three or four years ago, he asked me if I wanted a bigger, better, faster vacuum cleaner for Christmas. I told him "No thank you." He got it for me anyway, and I have to admit that it had a pretty nice self-retracting cord. But a few days later, Fed Ex delivered another box. It contained gorgeous binoculars, Bushnell "Legends" with 10x magnification and a wide, bright 340' field of view. "You didn't seem excited about the vacuum cleaner," Jerry said.

I kept the binoculars next to my recliner facing out our picture windows. From there, I saw raptors, corvids, migrating waterfowl, and common front yard birds, plus an occasional Bullock's Oriole. Better, using the binoculars to see birds became my incentive to get outside and get some exercise.

I clipped the binoculars into a harness with long straps and hung my camera around my neck with a shorter strap, so I could use both without banging them on each other. My "battle rattle" Jerry called it. I tucked my phone in my pocket and went walking around our subdivision.

People noticed. A man in a pick-up pulled over to point out an occupied eagle's nest. Boys catching frogs on the edge of Lake Cortez asked if I'd seen "That black and white bird," a Downy Woodpecker. Mr. and Mrs. Stutzman showed me the woodpecker nest in their orchard, and Sandy and Leroy Farmer invited me onto their beach to see the Wood Ducks on Lake Cortez.

I've since seen at least 58 species just in the neighborhood, including Great Blue Herons standing in tree tops, and scarcer Northern Shovelers and Tundra Swans passing through, among the regular Common Mergansers, Hooded Mergansers, and Mallards on the lake. In the middle of July in the middle of the day, a Great Horned Owl glared at me with yellow eyes. When it extended one leg and stretched and flexed its vicious-looking talons, I snapped my photograph and backed off.

Meanwhile, back at the house, Jerry has retired the vacuum cleaner. He has replaced it with a Samsung "Roomba" type robotic vacuum cleaner. He loves it like a puppy that noses into every corner but never sheds. Manual binoculars are still the appropriate technology for me.

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## Living with Wildlife in the Okanogan A Highland Wonders Presentation

by Julie Ashmore, Okanogan Highlands

Living out in nature can be beautiful and serene, but it can also bring some surprises and challenges when people's daily lives interface with wildlife. There are specific things you can do to help make your life work well with wildlife around, even before any encounters occur. On Friday, January 5, WDFW Wildlife Biologist Jeff Heinlen will share ideas and suggestions about living with wildlife in a way that supports both human needs and the health of the ecosystem. Heinlen will discuss living with animals from birds and bats to bears and bobcats and things in between.

When: January 5, at 6:30 pm. (Dinner benefiting the Community Cultural Center/CCC at 5:15 pm, followed by the presentation with tea, coffee and desserts.) Cost: Presentation is free; dinner is \$8 for CCC members and \$9 for non-members; desserts by donation (benefit for the CCC). Where: Community Cultural Center of Tonasket, 411 S Western Ave

## *December Wild Phlox*

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### North Central Washington Audubon Society Calendar

Items in bold text are sponsored or co-sponsored by NCWAS

<b>December 15-31</b>	<b>Christmas Bird Counts in NCW</b>	<b>Bridgeport, Leavenworth, Chelan, Okanogan, Wenatchee and Twisp. See page 1</b>
January 5	Living with Wildlife in the Okanogan	A Highland Wonders presentation in Tonasket. See page 7
<b>January 6</b>	<b>Winter Birding Trip</b>	<b>Led by Mark Johnston. See page 2</b>
January 22 & 24	Winter Conifer Workshop	At Wenatchee Valley College. See page 2
<b>February 15</b>	<b>Leavenworth Spring BirdFest Registration</b>	<b>Register early at <a href="http://wenatcheeriverinstitute.org/events/2018-leavenworth-spring-bird-fest">http://wenatcheeriverinstitute.org/events/2018-leavenworth-spring-bird-fest</a></b>
February 16-19	Great Backyard Bird Count	Learn about it at <a href="http://gbbc.birdcount.org/about/">http://gbbc.birdcount.org/about/</a>
<b>February 20</b>	<b><i>The Million Dollar Duck</i></b>	<b>A film, sponsored by NCWAS. At the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center. <a href="http://www.wenatcheevalleymuseum.org/event/environmental-film-lecture-series-million-dollar-duck-2/">http://www.wenatcheevalleymuseum.org/event/environmental-film-lecture-series-million-dollar-duck-2/</a></b>
<b>1st and 3rd Wednesdays Each Month</b>	<b>Citizen Science! Beebe Springs Bird Walk</b>	<b>Collect Data to help manage habitat for birds. Contact Virginia Palumbo for starting times. <a href="mailto:vwpalumbo@gmail.com">vwpalumbo@gmail.com</a> or 682-5969</b>



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